

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 481

By Cochran

A RESOLUTION to honor Peggy Willocks and to congratulate her on receiving the "Milly Kondracke Award" for advocacy for Parkinson's Disease awareness.

WHEREAS, Parkinson's Disease is a painful, degenerative neurological disorder that causes disabling tremors, stiffness, slowness of movement, balance impairment and other symptoms like pain, sleep disturbances and depression; and

WHEREAS, FOX News journalist, Morton Kondracke chronicled his wife Milly's struggle with Parkinson's Disease in his 2001 book, entitled "Saving Milly", the film version of which aired on CBS television; and

WHEREAS, the "Milly Kondracke Award" has been presented to an advocate who demonstrates strength of spirit and commitment to advocacy similar to Milly for the past four years at the Morris K. Udall Awards in Washington; and

WHEREAS, on April 13, Morton Kondracke, along with ABC's Chris Matthews, CNN's Wolf Blitzer, and FOX News journalist Fred Barnes presented the "Milly Kondracke Award" to Peggy Willocks of Carter County, Tennessee, former principal of Harold McCormick Elementary School; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Willocks was diagnosed with Parkinson's nearly 12 years ago; continuing her profession, she was named Tennessee Principal of the Year in 1997, but in 1998 had to take disability retirement because of the advancement of the disease; and

WHEREAS, Peggy Willocks was one of only six people world-wide to receive experimental brain surgery in Atlanta in 2000; as a result, her symptoms lessened somewhat; and

WHEREAS, determined to raise awareness concerning Parkinson's Disease and the need for research, Mrs. Willocks is the State Coordinator for the Parkinson's Action Network, the president of the Northeast Tennessee Parkinson's Support Group, and the founder of the Tri-State Young Onset Parkinson's Support Group; she is a member of the Creativity Team for the planning of the 1st World Congress for Parkinson's Disease in 2006; and

WHEREAS, Peggy Willocks is co-editor of a leading community website, www.grassrootsconnection.com and is co-editor and founder of the Park Street Network site, www.pwnkle.com; she is a member of the American Parkinson's Disease Association speaker's bureau and a member of the Parkinson's Pipeline Project, dedicated to accelerating the approval of new drugs and treatments caught in the pipeline; and

WHEREAS, reflecting on the fear and apprehension of her own children as she underwent her operation and the time her advocacy activity takes from her children and grandchildren, Peggy Willocks plans to write a book about helping children of those who have Parkinson's Disease; and

WHEREAS, in a letter, Senate Majority leader Bill Frist expressed his thanks for Mrs. Willocks' strength of character and dedication to finding a cure, saying, "You serve as a role model to all of us, and a spirit of service such as yours can only make a positive and lasting impact in the lives of your fellow Americans."; and

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly wish to seize this opportunity to specially recognize Mrs. Peggy Willocks for her impassioned advocacy for Parkinson's Disease research, and thank her for her tireless efforts; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we congratulate Mrs. Peggy Willocks upon receiving the 2005 "Milly Kondracke Award", praise her for her steadfast commitment to the cause of Parkinson's Disease research and her role in support groups, and offer her our best wishes for every success and satisfaction in all her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.

